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AN APPEAL

TO THE

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

BY AN

AMERICAN CITIZEN

FOR

Woodbridge W.
TRUTH AND JUSTICE.

WASHINGTON:

Printed at the Office of THE GREAT REPUBLIC, 499 11th Street.

1868.

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W. Overbridge

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WASHINGTON, April 30, 1868.

The two documents on this page will explain why it is that I make this appeal to the Congress of the nation. By the course of political events an issue is attempted to be made, at this late day, regarding the purity of my conduct and claim. Having been an inhabitant of the State of Georgia during the rebellion; and since the war a public officer, by the nomination of the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; I do feel anxious to remove all doubts on the subject of my entire heartfelt loyalty at all times to the Government of the United States, and to establish my right to the continued confidence of those kind friends who have encouraged and supported me in the prosecution of my purpose.

I respectfully submit the proofs herein contained and ask a careful consideration and a righteous judgment of my claim.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE.
Of Savannah, Ga.

AT THE BEGINNING.

HEADQ'RS MILITARY DIV'N MISSISSIPPI,
IN THE FIELD, January 15, 1865,
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

HON. SIMEON DRAPER,

Special Agent Treasury Department:

DEAR SIR:—I take pleasure in making known to you Wyllly Woodbridge, Esq., the same who has been recommended as Collector of this port. He is universally admitted to have been always a steady, thorough Union man. I would be glad if you would recognize him in that capacity, and deal with him according. I am, sir,

WM. T. SHERMAN,
Major General Commanding.

THE END AS THE MATTER NOW STANDS.

[From the Savannah Daily Advertiser, Jan. 20, 1868.]

Although our politics, during and since the war, were and are much at variance with those of the subscriber of the following communication, we take great pleasure in publishing it at his request. Whatever may be the honest differences existing between citizens on political subjects, all must unite in scorn and detestation of the miserable wretch who, shrouded in the mantle of invisibility, launches his shafts at the unconscious object of his enmity. The writer of an anonymous letter, written for purposes of malice, would, but for the cowardice natural to such a character, play the part of the assassin:

"TO THE PUBLIC.

"The following is a copy of a letter written and directed to the Honorable Secretary of War at Washington:

¹ SAVANNAH, April 11, 1867.

"SIR:—Before you use your exertions to secure Mr. Wyllly Woodbridge's claim for cotton, taken at Savannah upon its occupancy by the Federal army, had you better not inquire whether he was not as much a rebel as others, whose claims are hopeless; and whether he did not make a written application to Gen. A. R. Lawton (now a resident of this city) for a position on his staff? It will not cost you much trouble, and will further the ends of

JUSTICE."

"This letter was not written by a fool. It is mean, insinuating, and poisonous, dishonorable and cowardly, and bears the impress of villainy. It has no right to the name of 'Justice.' It is *unjust* in the extreme.

"As my only witness in the case, I must summon Gen. Lawton, and ask of him the proof or denial of the allegations contained in the letter.

"I also ask him to publish to the world all my correspondence ever held with him, and all the circumstances connected therewith. I ask him to state to the public in what light I was viewed by him and all my fellow-citizens. What was my position, politically, before and during the secession agitation in Savannah? Was I considered a submissionist or not? What were my feelings, words, and actions, during the long continuance of the war? What was my treatment by friends and foes? Was I rebellious to the United States Government or the Confederate? Did he know of the persecutions in my house by the vigilance committee, and the various arrests of my person for military duty? I ask him to state all that he does know concerning me connected with the rebellion, so that 'justice' may be clothed again in her own proper robes.

"WYLLY WOODBRIDGE.

Washington City, D. C., January 15, 1868."

THE REIGN OF TERROR.

[From the Savannah Daily News, Nov. 23, 1860.]

COMMUNICATED.

Secession the only True Mode of Resistance.

Mr. Editor: It has been said, and that in high places, that even under the extreme aggravation to which Georgia has been aroused, and which it would seem ought to make us all of one mind, as one man, there are to be two parties in the coming election for delegates to the State Convention. I am unwilling to think so, I have yet to believe that Georgia contains within her borders any respectable number of men who would, in her present exigency, think for one moment of quietly submitting to the rule of a man hostile to the very foundation of our social system. Understand me, I refer to abject submissionists, Unionists at any hazard, and to the end of the chapter. If there are any such, they are Georgia's foster children, and not born of her. They are her Catalines, her Arnolds, and the sooner the veil is torn from the dark designs of their unnatural bosoms, the better will it be for the honor of our State.

But I cannot believe that a corporal's guard of men so low, so servile, so degraded, so lost to shame, and insensible to wrong and insult, could be drummed up from Dade to Ware. If there be any, they had better keep out of the track of the whirlwind of defiant indignation that is now sweeping the length and breadth of this State. Such cringing submission will be held to be either cowardice or knavery, and the hour of retribution will soon overtake them. He who is not in our favor of resistance in some shape, can be but little short of an ally of our enemies.

But surely there can be no such men in Georgia, who can boast the name of a Georgian, for in every meeting in every county the cry of resistance has been made.

* * * * *

Refusing to submit to Lincoln's rule is "resistance to Lincoln." Any step short of secession, short of disavowing his right, or willingness for him to rule over us, is not resistance to him, but *submission* to him, and resistance to some one else.

SAVANNAH.

INTERROGATORIES.

1st. Did you not say some months ago that the Government at Washington ought to put down the movement of Southern States at once, or something to that effect?

2d. Did you not say that Abraham Lincoln was lawfully elected by the people, and that because some of the office-seekers were disappointed, they had advocated secession, and also that you had no doubt but that Lincoln would make a good President?

3d. After Georgia had seceded, did you not endeavor to ship rice to Boston, or some other northern port?

4th. Were you not opposed to the secession of Georgia from the United States?

5th. Did you not positively forbid your house to be illuminated in honor of South Carolina?

6th. Did you not try to get Wm. D. Olivera to run the blockade and take a cargo of rice North?

7th. Do you think that the South had any right to secede from the United States?

8th. Did you not say that the South had acted too hasty in seceding when she did, and that the people ought to wait until Lincoln committed an overt act?

9th. Are you not opposed to slave labor, and have you not said that it ought to be abolished?

10th. Did you not own an interest in an iron mill North; and if so, how much, and at what place?

11th. Did you not refuse to join a mounted guard, organizing in this city, for the protection of Savannah, and assign as your reason that you were able to protect your own home, and that you did not know by whom our homes and firesides were to be invaded?

12th. Did you not in conversation with two gentlemen on Monday or Tuesday last, say that the North was honorable, and acted honorably, and that Kentucky was always an honorable State, and that she was still honorable, if she had gone with the North?

13th. Do you own any slaves?

14th. Have you not frequently and repeatedly abused the South and taken up for the North?

15th. Would you be willing to fight for the Confederate States?

16th. Would you take the oath of allegiance to the Confederate States?

17th. Did you not ask Mr. James Wray if he took such trash as Confederate bonds in payment or part payment for work done for the Confederate Government, and did you not say that you would not take them, and that you considered it a hazardous investment.

18th. Did you not say that you would take office under the Lincoln Government.

SAVANNAH, September 30, 1861.

HON. CHARLES C. JONES,

Mayor of Savannah:

DEAR SIR: Herewith I beg leave to submit to you a paper containing a series of interrogatories that were served on me at my residence, the night of the 26th inst., by J. D. Fish, H. F. Willink, Jr., John Willink, W. B. Adams, Jr., and B. W. Hardee? These persons appeared in a body, as a committee, and accompanied the delivery of the paper with a demand that the questions therein propounded be answered, and to them directly.

I repudiate the authority of these self-constituted inquisitors, and scorn to respond to their insulting demands.

To you, sir, as the chief magistrate of my city, I am willing to state that whatever may be my individual opinions with regard to the policy that has been pursued by the Southern States, including the State of Georgia, I feel bound to respect their action.

In the present fearful issue in which we are engaged, I hold with all true citizens of Georgia, a common involvement of everything which is precious to me in life, and my endeavor shall be to be loyal to my native State, and true to the institutions of the South.

I am, sir, respectfully, yours,
WYLLY WOODBRIDGE.

[From the Daily News.]

NOTICE TO SHIPPERS OF COTTON AND OTHER
SOUTHERN PRODUCTS.

The Safety Guard of Savannah deem the shipping of cotton and other Southern products, by any vessel now in our port, or which may hereafter arrive, as *directly* or *indirectly* giving aid and comfort to the enemy.

We, therefore, solicit the aid of all loyal citizens of this community to prevent the shipment of Southern products to the ports of any government not recognizing our independence and countenancing the ineffectual blockade of our ports. By order of the Society.

Attest:

B. W. HARDEE,
Secretary and Treasurer.

September 30, 1861.

Officers Safety Guard.

JOHN D. FISH, President,
W. G. BULLOCK, 1st Vice-President
G. B. LAMAR, 2d Vice-President,
H. F. WILLINK, Jr., Captain Patrol,
JAMES L. HAUPT, 1st Lieut. Patrol,
WILLIAM DIXON, 2d Lieut. Patrol.

The following letter was read to Dr. Bullock, but for good and sufficient reasons retained in the possession of the author:

SAVANNAH, October 3, 1861.

DR. WILLIAM G. BULLOCK,

First Vice-President Safety Guard:

SIR: On Thursday night last, during a severe storm, Dr. Fish, H. F. Willink, Jr., W. B. Adams, John Willink, and B. W. Hardee, called at my residence, after I had retired to my chamber, and were admitted to my parlor by the servant; they represented themselves as a committee appointed to propose written questions for me to answer. During the visit, ill-timed and intrusive, I refused to open the paper presented, and throwing it on the table told them they could leave it. Our interview, interrupted by the accidental appearance of my son, then abruptly closed, and the party left my house. What other intentions they had in view I have no means of judging; but the array of numbers, the hour, and the weather, all looked to me ominous of evil.

They protected their visit under the plea of duty as a committee; but by what authority, or from whom or what society they did not state, and I had to draw my own conclusions. Finding them in my house, my servant having received them as he is instructed to receive all gentlemen, I treated them as politely as my feelings under the circumstances would permit.

I submit herewith a copy of the paper left on my table; it is verbatim. I consider the questions ridiculous, obtrusive, and insulting in the extreme, totally unworthy of my notice, and were I to submit to such an inquisition as has evidently been prepared for me, I would do great injustice to myself and encourage an outrage upon society at large. And I will further state to you, as I have to some of the party engaged, that my reception and treatment at the time of the paper was well judged, for had it been opened, and the contents known during the presence of its bearers in my dwelling, I am very certain the consequences would have been serious.

I have held friendly conversations with my fellow-citizens, and have treated them with confidence. I have not intruded my opinions knowingly, nor have I shrunk from the expression of them open and above board, and I hold that no man or set of men have

the right to misjudge my motives, or control my conscience, any more than I have the right to do so to them. As long as I have exercised the privileges of a citizen of Savannah my endeavors have been to discharge my duties independently through good and evil report, and for the proofs thereof I refer you to my past career.

Let me ask you if there may not be some other motive than the public good alone which prompts such a question to me as that one marked number nine. I do not hesitate to declare that the man who suggested it against me can have no other guide or foundation than his own evil and corrupt heart; its beatings alone could suggest such an opinion of me, and I would not trust such a man on his oath; he must be a "sheep in wolf's clothing." Has such a man a public license to slander me, or to insult me with such a question? I answer "No."

Allow me to suggest to you that these are no times to arouse bad feelings among ourselves, and believing that you would not willingly be a party to injustice, I ask that you will use your influence to control your society for good and not for evil.

Respectfully yours,

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE.

The following notice was served on me at my office at noon—read, copied, and indignantly returned to the committee-man who brought it:

Resolved, That the Safety Guard require Mr. Wyllly Woodbridge to answer the interrogatories in writing to this society, and to take the oath of allegiance to the Confederate States; in default of which we will bring him before the proper authorities for investigation.

Committee appointed,

JOHN H. WILLINK.

Copy of resolutions passed unanimously by Safety Guard, October 23, 1861.

October 29, 1861.

Soon after the State of Georgia seceded from the Union, I heard Mr. W. Woodbridge say that Mr. Lincoln was legally elected by the people of the United States, and it was a good Government, and that Mr. Lincoln ought to put down the Montgomery, or bogus, government, for it was an illegal one, Georgia better wait for some overt act of Mr. Lincoln; and better fight him in the Union than out of it.

I further state that I was opposed to the proceedings taken against Mr. Woodbridge.

WILLIAM LAKE.

October 29, 1861.

The night the safety guard arrested Mr. Oliveira, Mr. Willink and Dr. Hardee called

on Mr. G. B. Lamar to get his opinion about the matter. When they returned I heard them say, that when they told Mr. Lamar that he, Oliveira, had been in conversation with Mr. Woodbridge, that he, Mr. Lamar, recommended the arrest and confinement of Mr. Oliveira and Mr. Baird.

WILLIAM LAKE.

NOTE.—Mr. Oliveira was a fisherman, and accused of holding communication with the Federal fleet at the mouth of the river.

Reckless of personal consequences, I committed my cause into the hands of a gallant relative and friend, who had at a previous time been the victim of a mob, and under his direction the following correspondence ensued—he deemed me crazy:

SAVANNAH, October 30, 1861.

G. B. LAMAR, Esq. :

Dear Sir : I have of late been made the subject of much annoyance, and even insult, by an association which puts forth your name as one of its highest officers. You have known me many years; all my life has been passed in this city, and I claim to be as true and loyal a citizen as any man in it; had I been otherwise I would not have remained here to meet any contingencies that might result to me and mine as citizens of Georgia. It is reported to me that you urged the arrest of an individual on the charge of having been seen with me, as is shown by the accompanying certificate of Mr. Wm. Lake. This is truly extraordinary, if true. Will you do me the favor to explain if this use of your name and continued annoyance is by your sanction or afford me the means of refuting those who may be using your name to the malicious injury of mine.

I am yours,

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE.

SAVANNAH, October 31, 1861.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE, Esq. :

Dear Sir : I have yours of 30th inst., with a note from Mr. Lake, saying that "I had advised the arrest of Mr. Oliveira when I had been informed that he had been in conversation with you," about which there is some *mistake*, if not something greater. I never heard his name or yours mentioned in any connection whatever. It is true I have known you many years, and it is equally true that every political expression of opinion I have ever heard from you has been in direct and extreme opposition to the present state of government; but while we were then in subjugation, which I felt and deplored—and which you did not heed, but re-

joined in—a difference of opinion so great might be tolerated, whatever its origin. But there are very changed circumstances. Now, the issues are not mere party questions, they have assumed broader distinctions, which I fear you do not properly realize. The issues are now between war and peace, conquest and subjugation, life and death, and it is no time to be hesitating between the two sides. Those who are not *for us* are against us. Those who are not our friends are our enemies, and there can be no neutrality tolerated on either side. The sooner you realize the truths I have stated and choose your position, the better. Your loyalty to this city or this State is not sufficient. You must be loyal to Lincoln's Government or that of the Confederate States.

If you belong to the former you are my enemy, and I would not hesitate to kill you the moment you told me so. If you belong to the latter and, like your sons, manifest it in thoughts, words, and deeds, you are my friend, as ever before, and shall have the benefit of it as far as I can serve you.

Hitherto I have taken no part in the action against you, henceforth I shall be governed by your reply to this note—and all depends upon your loyalty to the country which protects you and yours, or your enmity against it. I hope you will be frank and candid and speak out as plainly as I have done, so that there may be no misunderstanding on the momentous issues between us.

Yours,

G. B. LAMAR.

Savannah, November 6, 1861.

G. B. LAMAR, Esq.:

Dear Sir: Your letter of 31st ultimo, is hereby acknowledged. The paragraph in regard to Mr. Lake's note is satisfactory and I dismiss that subject from my further consideration. I regret to perceive that you in common with others are disposed to make as a charge against me the attachment I have professed for the old Union. I was attached to the old Union, and so long as it existed I gave to its Government my cordial allegiance. When that Union was dissolved by the act of the State of Georgia I took my place with the people of Georgia, with thousands of citizens who, whatever of regret they might feel for the past, were not the less determined to support and maintain our native State in the great issue before us. For good or for evil, success or failure, I gave myself, my children, and my fortune to the fate of my native State.

You tell me that my "loyalty to this city or this State is not sufficient. You must be

loyal to Lincoln's Government, or that of the Confederate States."

I have no hesitancy in declaring to you, sir, that I do give to the State of Georgia my first and highest allegiance. It was through and by the act of Georgia that I recalled all allegiance and abjured all obedience to the Government of the United States. It was by and through the act of Georgia that I became a citizen of the confederacy of the southern States, and give it my present allegiance and support. So also, should the councils of our people find it necessary for their welfare to withdraw from this confederacy, I will be true to my birth place and my birthright as a citizen of Georgia. Whatever be in store for this State, I and mine will bear our part. This is the position I have chosen. If that be disloyalty, I have yet to learn it.

You make reference to my children. It is ungenerous in you, sir, on that single account, to question my loyalty, and bitter, too, when I remember that all my sons, with my consent and support, enrolled in the ranks of the volunteers for the defense of the country.

The respect I have felt for you, and the fact that your name had been used by parties who seem bent on doing me such injury as their malice could compass, induced me to address you, as I did not suppose you doubted me as a citizen, or could countenance in others the indulgence of personal dislike under the plea of patriotic inquisition. In addressing you I gave you the right to question me: I have endeavored to make my answer as "frank and candid" as you have desired.

Respectfully yours,

W. WOODBRIDGE.

The city of Savannah, Georgia, was in a state of intense excitement. The news of the capture of the Walker battery on Hilton Head, and the arrival of retreating troops, among them many of the wounded, aroused the intensest feeling. Everybody was in the street, and large crowds collected around the news and telegraphic offices throughout the day until late at night. Families commenced packing up, and large numbers of females and children were sent from the city by the night train to the country. The efflux will probably continue, and upon the whole, we think this portion of the population should not be present to embarrass the defensive preparation.—*Savannah Republican*, Nov. 9, 1861.

NOTE.—After the above manifestation of power of the United States Government, so near Savannah, where every gun could be heard, the Safety Guard pursued me no further, and I believe it was on this day of excitement that I wrote the letter to General Lawton, then in command of the city, with the single purpose of

seeking his protection against my enemies, who deemed me unsafe, and were endeavoring to have me sent to Richmond as a prisoner.

SAVANNAH, November 11, 1861.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE, Esq.:

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 6th instant, in reply to mine of 31st ult., was not received till late on the evening it was written.

I am very sorry you disregarded my request, and failed to improve the occasion furnished you promptly and frankly to define your position among us. What estimate ought to be placed upon the sincerity of a letter of opinions which six days were necessary to elaborate; and how far can such opinions go to overturn the doctrines not long ago expressed, totally to the contrary of such an elaboration?

The laws of the Confederacy have declared all who adhered to the Lincoln dynasty to be alien enemies, and gave them forty days to withdraw from our midst; that time has expired long ago, and it becomes those who remain here to give some tangible evidence, and more especially those who were known to be advocates of Lincoln, and were willing to take office under him, to demonstrate that they are not now enemies at heart and friends in disguise.

Your attempt to pervert the reference I took pleasure in making to the patriotism of your sons now in the army, only throws greater doubt upon the contents of your letter. I confess that I am entirely unable to comprehend you, and I do not rely on your loyalty as I wish I could have had a good foundation to do, and cannot until you give some stronger evidence of a change in your previous opinions.

You are greatly in error, too, in supposing that no man except those to whom you have conceded the privilege, has a right to interrogate you at the present crisis. Every man is liable by law to show his colors, and more especially those whose previous history affords so many grounds for disloyalty. We have a perfect right to be satisfied who are our enemies and who are to be relied on as friends, and it behooves you now to act as well as to speak, and you cannot too soon remove the doubts which surround you. I write you plainly and frankly, but though I am not fully satisfied of your amity, I am not your enemy.

Yours,

G. B. LAMAR.

SAVANNAH, April 3, 1863.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE, Esq.:

Dear Sir: You have been fined by the

Judge of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Southern District of Georgia, in the sum of (\$40) forty dollars, as a defaulting grand juror at its April term, 1862, and I am required by the court to collect the same from you by process of attachment. I am not desirous of issuing said process of attachment against you, or to add to the fine and costs, and I would, therefore, suggest to you the propriety, and request that you would, early in the ensuing week, hand to or remit me the amount of said fine.

I remain, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES S. HENRY, *Clerk.*

NOTE.—I absented myself on purpose to avoid taking the Confederate oath, which I had resolved never to do, and giving assistance to a court which I despised.

MADISON, Sept., 7, 1863.

W. WOODBRIDGE, Savannah, Ga.:

Dear Sir: I write to acknowledge the receipt of your kind and sensible letter. No man could offer better advice. It is very seldom that a man of truth gains anything politically by much writing. You cannot think much worse of the insane folly which has put to hazard all that was worth living for than I do. I have been astonished at the moderation of the adversaries of secession. If they would have only remained passive as to the merits of what had been done, I think it would have been better.

With much respect, yours, truly,

JOSHUA HILL.

OFFICE CHIEF COMMISSARY.

Savannah, October 19, 1863.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE, Esq.:

Sir: I have been directed by the commanding general at Richmond to purchase as much of the new crop of rice as I can, at 15 cents per pound. Many planters have offered to let the Government have one-half of their crop at the above price. Will you please ascertain if those for whom you are factor are willing to do the same, and let me know as soon as practicable.

By direction of the Chief Commissary.

Yours, very respectfully,

GEO. L. COPE.

Capt. and A. C. S.

SAVANNAH, December 23, 1863.

MAJOR JOHN SCRIVEN:

Dear Sir: In answer to Mr. Baldwin's personal application, I have positively declined entering into any engagement regarding the sale of your rice to Government, because it is not possible to know how and when

it can be ready for delivery, and I do not wish to commit myself in view of many contingencies. My course, however, need not interfere with your reflections, for I shall be most happy to be relieved of all responsibility in the matter, and if you so wish, no doubt Messrs. Habersham will be glad to include your crops in their bargain, which I consider a most unfortunate one for the planters.

I am yours, very truly,

W. WOODBRIDGE.

SAVANNAH, December 30, 1863.

MAJOR JOHN SCRIVEN—

Dear Sir: After talking with you a few days since, about selling to me for the Government one-half your rice crop, at 15 cents per pound, I called on Mr. Woodbridge, who tells me he does not feel authorized to make any such arrangement. It will be necessary for me to have an order on Mr. W., as he will not do what you stated to me you had told him to do, viz: the same as the other planters had done. If you are still willing to sell the Government one half your crop, please send me an order, so that I may arrange with Mr. Woodbridge about it.

Yours, truly,

D. H. BALDWIN.

Capt. and A. C. S.

The Confederate Government did not get the rice at this or any other time from me, nor did my mill ever do any work or receive any money from it in any way. At one single time the Commissary bought 40 barrels from a third party, which I was obliged to deliver to his order, but he disputed my bill of expenses, and never paid it. After the secession of Georgia I declined to do work except to fulfil my engagements with my friends.

MILITARY ORDERS.

HEADQ'RS 1ST MIL. DIS. GEORGIA MILITIA,
MONTIETT, July 25, 1864.

Mr. W. Woodbridge having applied to the inferior court for exemption from the late call of the Governor, he will not be interfered with by the enrolling officer of the district for the next four days.

GEO. P. HARRISON, A. D. C.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

MILLEDGEVILLE, GA., August 15, 1864.

Col. A. A. WILBUR, Savannah:

Colonel: Information having been received that Wyll Woodbridge is at home, improperly out of the military service, the Governor directs that you will order him (Mr. Woodbridge) to the front immediately, to report to the proper command for duty.

Very respectfully,

JAMES M. MOBLY,

Col. and Aide-de-Camp for Gov. Brown.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE, Savannah, Ga.:

Sir: In reply to your letter, I am directed to say that the Governor has been informed that you were remaining at home improperly, and hence issued the order which he did; but upon a full investigation of the facts he is satisfied that such is not the fact, and has directed me to inclose to you his order revoking his former order, and approving the action of the inferior court of your county in exempting you, and this being shown to Colonel Wilbur, or any one else, will exempt you.

After assuring you that everything is satisfactory.

I am, sir, your obedient servant.

JAMES M. MOBLY,

Col. and Aide-de-Camp for Gov. Brown.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

MILLEDGEVILLE, August 22, 1864.

Upon a hearing of all the facts I approve the action of the inferior court of Chatham county, and revoke my special order sending Mr. Woodbridge to Atlanta.

JOSEPH E. BROWN,

Governor of Georgia.

SAVANNAH, August 26, 1864.

W. WOODBRIDGE, Esq.:

Referring to the order received from His Excellency Governor Brown to send you to the front, I have to state that I have received an order since revoking that order, and the whole matter is left with the inferior court, who will decide upon the case as to them seems just and right. My order sent you by Lieutenant Williams is also revoked, and you are relieved from reporting to headquarters until further orders.

Respectfully yours,

AARON WILBUR,

Col. and Aide-de-Camp to Gov. Brown.

HEADQUARTERS, &C.,

SAVANNAH, November 17, 1864.

MR. WYLLY WOODBRIDGE:

Sir: You have failed to comply with my request made a few days ago. I have just learned that you have not yet joined Captain Oliver's company, and I here warn you that you are required to join that company for city police, between this and Saturday, or the law will be enforced against you as told you before. My orders are peremptory and must be executed.

W. H. HOLAND,

Lieut. Col. and A. D. C. for Gov. Brown.

SQUAD No. 7.

CAPT. J. G. MILLS, *Chairman*,
OCTAVUS COHEN,
ANDREW LOW,
W. WOODBRIDGE,
J. R. WILDER.

CAPT. J. G. MILLS, *Chairman*:

Will please notify the above named parties that they must hold themselves in readiness to repair to the Committee Rooms, near the Centrail railroad at any moment, night or day, whenever summoned by you, to attend to the sick and wounded soldiers.

II. BRIGHAM,
Savannah Relief Committee.

AFTER GENERAL SHERMAN'S OCCUPATION OF THE CITY.

HEADQUARTERS CITY OF SAVANNAH,
January 1, 1865.

BRIG. GEN. EASTON,
Chief Quartermaster, M. D. W.

General: Mr. Woodbridge, who presents this note, is the owner of the rice mill at the eastern end of the city. His mill is included within the limits which have been assigned for Government use. Mr. W. is the one chief representative of the Union men in this city, and has been such consistently through the war.

I hope you will except his property, if possible, from being appropriated for Government use.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. GEARY.

Brig. Gen. Command'g City.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, *January 8, 1865.*

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE, Esq.,
Savannah.

Dear Sir: Your letter of the 27th ultimo relative to your claim to the restoration of certain cotton, which you allege was improperly seized by the United States authorities, has been received. I am, dear sir,

Your obedient servant,

W. HUNTER,
Acting Secretary.

SAVANNAH, GA., *January 19, 1865.*

On the 21st day of December last, the day of the occupation of this city, I became acquainted with Mr. Wyllly Woodbridge, a native resident of this city. I am entirely satisfied from repeated conversations with Mr. Woodbridge, from remarks made in my presence by secessionists of the city, and by

the perusal of threatening letters and other documents sent to Mr. Woodbridge since the outbreak of the rebellion, that he has at all times been loyal to the United States Government, that he has given no voluntary aid to the so-called Confederate Government, and that he has supported the Union of the States so far as allowed to do so by the military despotism which has ruled in Georgia for the last four years. His life and property have both been repeatedly threatened for his devotion to the United States Government.

W. B. WOODS, of the 76th Ohio,
Brig. General and late Provost Marshal Eastern District Savannah.

“W. Woodbridge, rice factor and commission merchant, has done but little since the war—still in the city—an open Union man from the beginning.”

NO. 14, FIFTH AVENUE HOTEL,
NEW YORK, *January 30, 1865.*

W. WOODBRIDGE, Esq.,

My Dear Sir: Allow me to congratulate you upon once more being within Union lines. My heart was gladdened this morning by seeing the above scrap in the newspaper. I had often thought of you and felt assured that nothing could alienate you from the Union. My wife is truly happy, for she has many valued and cherished friends in dear old Savannah.

Very sincerely, your friend,

JOHN GRANGER.

WASHINGTON, *March 11, 1865.*

My Dear Sir: I duly received your letter of January last, with the accompanying papers, and presented the case to Secretary Stanton at our first interview after his return from Savannah. He said to me that Gen. Sherman had the whole subject in charge, and would, he had no doubt, give your case attention.

On receiving, a day or two since, your letter to Judge Wayne, which he sent to me with his endorsement, I again called on Secretary Stanton in your behalf, and also addressed him a letter enclosing yours to Judge Wayne, with the Judge's endorsement.

The Secretary says he well recollects my presentation of the case, and he has no doubt the military authorities will do what they can for you, but that perhaps the best way may be to turn the property over to them and take receipts therefor, for the Government will remunerate every loyal citizen.

I told him I thought your case an extremely hard and very deserving one, and merited.

I thought, special consideration. Indeed, I had hoped that the authorities, on learning your position, had of themselves afforded you protection and security, and I still trust that such is the fact.

I am not familiar with the proceedings which have taken place at Savannah, and the property captured, or whether discrimination has been had between loyal and disloyal citizens in taking possession; but that ultimate payment will be made to those who, like you, have been true. I cannot doubt, and it will give me much pleasure if I can be of assistance to you.

Truly your friend,

GIDEON WELLES.

—
TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
December 31, 1864.

A. G. BROWNE, Esq.,

Supervising Special Agent,

Treasury Department, 5th Agency:

Sir: I have received your letter of the 26th instant, inclosing copy of a letter to you from General Foster, advising you that General Sherman will turn over to you the cotton recently captured by him at Savannah, and reporting the action you propose to take in the premises.

Simeon Draper, Esq., Collector of Customs at New York, has been appointed a Special Agent of the Department, and will proceed to Savannah as early as possible to take charge of this cotton, under special instructions. On his arrival you will act in the premises as directed in the letter which he brings to you for me.

In the meantime, if the cotton has been turned over to you, you will take all necessary steps towards its care and safe-keeping, as well as that of any other captured or abandoned property received or collected by you, but you will take no conclusive measures in relation to its shipment from Savannah.

Your attention is particularly directed, in this connection, to the fourth regulation concerning personal property, series of July 29, 1864, and you will exercise the greatest caution to the end that the information procured by you thereunder be communicated to no person but Mr. Draper, to whom you will furnish copies of all information so obtained. You will also decline to consider the claims or applications of all persons for the restoration or release to them of any of the property received or collected by you as above.

Very respectfully,

W. P. FESSENDEN,
Secretary of the Treasury.

5TH SPECIAL AGENCY OF TREAS'Y DEP'T,
SAVANNAH, GA., March 12, 1865.

HON. HUGH McCULLOCH,

Secretary of the Treasury:

Sir: My attention has been called to several cases of peculiar hardship by citizens of this place, whom I deem loyal and as true to the Union as persons so situated usually are. These persons had always hoped and believed that the Union cause would finally triumph. Believing this, and having a desire to pay their northern indebtedness, they were looking to their cotton for that purpose.

All cotton, as you are aware, has been seized, and has been or is to be sent forward.

By my former instructions I was to have verified the claims of each individual, but the order of Mr. Draper overruled this. Much as I may regret the fact, as a faithful officer of the Government, I am bound to obey instructions; but I am confident that it would be better for us to recognize some of these claims, which are as righteous and just as many we have allowed. Now, it would appear the unfortunate loyal citizen, the owner of cotton, is placed on a worse footing than the owner of other property, who may be at heart disloyal, yet unscrupulous enough to take an oath of allegiance.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

A. G. BROWNE,

Supervising Special Agent Treasury Dept.

—
*Registration of cotton for Colonel Ransom,
in accordance with military orders.*

I have in the store of the Savannah Rice Mill, at the foot of East Broad street, on wharf lots numbers 9 and 10, which building is under my own supervision, and occupied by me, 43 bales Sea Island Cotton, marked W. W., of which 40 are round bales and 3 square bales; also 74 bales cotton, Uplands, all of which is square cotton, and marked W. W., 1 a 74. The aggregate weight of the 43 bales Sea Island Cotton is 14,823 pounds. The weight of the Uplands together is 35,752 pounds.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE.

SAVANNAH, March 13, 1865.

—
*Certificate of the Clerk of Colonel Ransom,
who demanded my key to remove the cotton.*

SAVANNAH, March 17, 1865.

This is to certify that on Monday and Tuesday last, 13th and 14th days of the present month, there was removed, under my supervision, from the stores of the Savannah

Steam Rice Mill, on the river, at the foot of East Broad street, where Mr. Wyly Woodbridge has his office.

43 bales Sea Island cotton.

74 bales Upland cotton.

All in good order and condition, bearing, besides other brands, the mark of W. W. on the sides of the bales.

And I do further certify that my authority for removing said cotton was received from Colonel H. C. Ransom, Lieutenant Colonel and Quartermaster U. S. Army, in charge of cotton in the city of Savannah.

Signed in duplicate.

A. H. WAVER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th of March, 1865.

EBEN PARSONS, Jr.,

1st Lieut. 38th Mass. Regt., Prov. Judge.

PIONEER, WILLIAMS COUNTY.

March 1, 1865.

W. WOODBRIDGE, Esq., Savannah, Ga. :

Your very welcome letter, bearing date February 13, came to hand last night. I was very glad to hear from you, indeed, and to know you were well and still under the protection of the old flag, and that all was moving on quietly and peaceably. I am sorry to hear that you were not allowed to handle your own cotton, for I know you had a better right to do so than Simeon Draper, or any other man, and had the Government at Washington had the facts in your case properly presented, I am satisfied you could have done so. If I had thought as much about it while I was in Savannah as I have since, I would have spoken to Gen. Woods, and we would have gotten up some papers and had them signed by such men as was then in Savannah, who would have done it willingly, that I could have brought on to Washington, that would have secured to you your rights. I fear you have been too delicate about urging your claims, or asking the protection you are justly entitled to.

L. W. RICHARDSON,

Lieut. 76th Ohio Regt.

HEADQ'RS, DISTRICT OF SAVANNAH.

Savannah, Ga., March 21, 1865.

Mr. W. Woodbridge leaves Savannah this day for a short visit North. Mr. Woodbridge is, and always has been, a prominent and genuine friend to the Union cause, more so I believe than any other citizen of Savannah. I would therefore recommend that he receive every consideration due a loyal citizen, and be allowed to return to Savannah whenever he may wish.

C. GROVER,

Breret Maj. General.

WAR DEPARTMENT, May 27, 1865.

WYLY WOODBRIDGE, Esq., of Georgia :

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that you have been appointed a member of the Board of Visitors to attend the annual examination of the Military Academy at West Point. The examination will commence on the first day of June next.

Respectfully,

EDWIN M. STANTON,

Sec. of War.

[Copy.]

We, the subscribers, citizens and merchants of the city of Savannah, beg leave to recommend Mr. Wyly Woodbridge as a gentleman who has been a consistent Union man during the war, and well qualified to fill the office of Collector for the port of Savannah.

H. BRIGHAM,

Pres't South. Insur. Co., and others.

I have made full inquiries and examination of this case, and think the appointment would commit to our cause a class of influential people, as also recognize the fidelity of a good Union man against much pressure.

W. T. SHERMAN,

Maj. Gen'l Command'g.

HEADQUARTERS CITY OF SAVANNAH;

January 7, 1865.

It affords me the greatest pleasure to add my approval to the within recommendation for the appointment of Wyly Woodbridge, to the position of Collector of this port. Mr. Woodbridge is a distinguished merchant of this city, and I have received the most unquestionable assurance that he has remained an unflinching and open advocate of the Union cause since the commencement of the war.

JNO. W. GEARY,

Brig Gen'l Command'g.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

February 17, 1868.

The foregoing is a true copy of the original of file in this Department.

C. E. CREECY,

Appointment Clerk.

I, Wyly Woodbridge, having been appointed to the office of Collector of the Customs for the District of Savannah, in the State of Georgia, do solemnly, sincerely, and truly swear, that I will diligently and faithfully execute the duties of the said office of Collector of the Customs, and will use the best of my endeavors, to prevent and detect

frauds in relation to the duties imposed by the laws of the United States. I further swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE,
Collector.

Sworn and subscribed this seventh day of July, 1865. Witness my hand and seal.

EBEN PARSONS, Jr..

Provost Judge, District of Savannah.

J. H. W. Birge, Brevet Major General U. S. Volunteers, do hereby certify that Eben Parsons, Jr., who administered the above oath, was at the time of doing so, duly authorized to administer the same; and that full faith and credit are due to his official attestations.

In testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand, this seventh day of July, 1865.

H. W. BIRGE,
Brevet Maj. Gen'l Com'g.

I, Wyllly Woodbridge, do solemnly swear that I have never voluntarily borne arms against the United States since I have been a citizen thereof; that I have voluntarily given no aid, countenance, counsel, or encouragement to persons engaged in armed hostility thereto; that I have neither sought, nor accepted, nor attempted to exercise the functions of any office whatever, under any authority, or pretended authority, in hostility to the United States; that I have not yielded a voluntary support to any pretended government, authority, power, or constitution, within the United States, hostile or inimical thereto. And I do further swear that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 22d day of June, A. D. 1865.

GEO. T. BETTS.

Clerk U. S. Dis. Court So. Dis. N. Y.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
October 27, 1865.

Dear Sir: I have seen your letter of the 6th instant, transmitting your resignation, &c., &c., and referring for explanations to your letter of the 21st ultimo, to the Commissioners of Customs, and his reply thereto.

dated the 29th ultimo. I have also seen your private letter, dated the 20th instant, addressed to the Commissioner.

I am unwilling to have you resign, but particularly am I anxious that you should not do so at this time. It would be a great satisfaction to have you communicate freely and unofficially to me the real causes which render your present position objectionable.

I assume that the objections, whatever they may be, would be as offensive to any other person as to you, and if it is in my power to remove them I will take great pleasure in doing so.

I am, very respectfully,

H. McCULLOCH.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE, Esq.

SAVANNAH, December 25, 1865.

HON. H. McCULLOCH:

Dear Sir: I have your regarded favor of 16th instant, received to-day. My communication to you was *private*, and so *personal*, intended alone to explain my silence so long in not answering your letter, and to excuse my resignation, that I am really sorry you have used it for any other purpose or shown it to any one.

My resignation was sent you after mature consideration of all my surroundings; it was pressed by two or three letters asking for its acceptance, and it is a matter of deep regret that I did not obtain a release at that time. The perplexities and responsibilities of my position are too great, to my mind, to permit me to be persuaded, even by patriotism and pride, to continue. You write: "It is quite important, however, that you should not resign the collectorship until it shall be ascertained that the oath is not likely to be modified by Congress." This matter was in my thoughts when I determined to resign—and I had no hope of its modification—and I was anxious to be independent of Congress. It will not always do to trust to princes or to men, as my own experience will show, and a "willing horse may be ridden to death." After four years of hard suffering, and the utmost confidence in the magnanimity of my Government, among a people determined upon its overthrow, I relied strongly on that Government to protect me in my property and acknowledge my just claims; but it would not restore to me what its agents had wrongfully taken from my peaceable and quiet possession—"one hundred and seventeen bales cotton, without any proof left with me of its removal, leaving me with the shadow of a claim to be settled in the future"—while every day, as a public officer enjoying the confidence of the Administration, I am obliged to witness thousands of bales of cot-

ton passing freely as the property of those whose hearts were bitterly opposed to the Government. Thus, while there is no reward for the Union man, treason receives no punishment as a crime, and the ardent participators in it enjoy the smiles of those they once spit upon, and before the people appear as patriots devoted to the "State's service." I ask you what encouragement is there for me to go on doing good? Suppose there should be a change in Washington, and yourself and other gentlemen of the Cabinet, who I believe are friends of mine and mean to do me justice, think it best to withdraw from office, what then would become of me and my just claims? It is of the utmost importance to me and family that my property should not be liable, nor my bondsmen, for moneys paid clerks that I was obliged to hire to conduct a public office held against my judgment and will. You say nothing about my desire that you send an experienced customs officer for my relief; nor do you give me any encouragement about the settlement of my accounts. I am anxious to settle this matter while I can control it, and remain.

Very truly,

Your obedient servant,

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

March 2, 1866.

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 24th instant is received. I have been expecting, from day to day, that Congress would so modify the oath of office as to relieve you of a part of your perplexities by enabling the accounting officers of the Department to audit the accounts of your subordinates.

Will you do me the favor, in the event no change is made in the oath, to advise me whether or not competent men can be found in Savannah to fill the different offices in the custom-house who can qualify under the law as it now stands.

I sincerely regret to be under the necessity of saying that I have no power whatever to pay to claimants, no matter how loyal they may have been, the proceeds of the cotton captured at Savannah. The law, as interpreted by the Attorney General, is imperative. My duty is to receive from the military forces of the United States, and to collect captured and abandoned property, and to dispose of it according to the statute.

No man can regret more than I do my inability to draw a line of distinction between loyal and disloyal claimants; and especially my inability to serve so true and loyal a man as yourself. I am, however, as

you know, only an executive officer, who must execute the law as he finds it.

I am, very truly, yours.

H. McCULLOCH, *Secretary*.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE,

Collector of Customs.

HEADQUARTERS MIL. DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
St. Louis, Mo., October 23, 1865.

Wylly Woodbridge, Esq., of Savannah, held certain cotton on the capture of Savannah. My first orders were that all cotton should be sent to New York by the quartermaster, each lot being marked and invoiced according, that claimants afterward might claim their own. But the Secretary of War, Mr. Stanton, on arrival, ordered all cotton to go into the possession of Mr. Simeon Draper, a special agent of the Treasury Department. I know nothing personally or officially of that cotton since. I believe Mr. Woodbridge to have been an honorable, upright, good man, and have so stated on many occasions, and if restitution of cotton, or the proceeds of sale thereof, has been made to any one in Savannah, a like course should be observed to him. This is as far as I am willing to act in any case of the kind.

W. T. SHERMAN.

Major General Commanding.

ABANDONED AND CAPTURED PROPERTY.

Regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury for the several special agents appointed in pursuance of the act of March 12, 1863, entitled, 'An act to provide for the collection of abandoned property, and for the prevention of frauds in insurrectionary districts within the United States.'

SECTION 4. Abandoned property is of two descriptions; first that which has been or may be deserted by owners; and second, that which has been or may be voluntarily abandoned by the owners to the civil or military authorities of the United States. Captured property is that which has been or may be seized or taken away from hostile possession by the military or naval forces of the United States.

SEC. 5. Special agents will collect and receive property, and make and keep a true record and account of expenses.

Supervising and assistant special agents will exercise due diligence in receiving and collecting, within the agency to which they have been respectively assigned, all abandoned and captured property, and upon taking possession of any such property will immediately make and keep a full and correct record of all the facts or information in re-

gard to each case or lot known or accessible to them, including as nearly as possible the following: the character and quantity of the property received or collected, when captured, or found or received as abandoned, under what circumstances, by whom owned or alleged to be owned, noting, when practicable, the name and address of one or more truthful residents of the neighborhood acquainted with the property and the owner or claimant thereof; and any statements they may make in connection therewith, by whom such property was captured or abandoned, by whom received or collected, from whom received, all names, marks, signs, or devices (whether distinct, indistinct, or partially erased) upon such property, together with all other information which may in any way serve to identify or make known the history of any particular lot, to trace the same or the proceeds thereof from the earliest possible to its final disposition.

Sec. 6. Supervising and assistant special agents will receive within their respective agencies any property from persons who offer voluntarily to abandon the same, and shall give a receipt therefor to the person so abandoning it, or to his or her agent, in the following form:

A record of all property so received, and all the expenses incurred in connection therewith shall be made and copies transmitted, and the property shall be disposed of in the manner prescribed in Regulation 5.

Sec. 16.—Each supervising special agent or other person, shall make a full record of such lot or parcel coming to his possession, in the manner prescribed in Regulation 5, and report the same and all sales or other disposition thereof made by him, rendering a monthly account current of all his transactions to the Secretary, accompanying the same with receipts or other vouchers for all moneys paid out by him; all balances remaining in his hands shall be deposited in the Treasury from time to time, as directed by the Secretary.

SAVANNAH COTTON.

Collector Simeon Draper has made an elaborate official report of all the facts concerning the cotton taken at Savannah by General Sherman. The total number of bales is 38,500, of which 6,000 bales are Sea Island. It had been gathered in from the various Confederate States, partly to prevent its falling into the possession of the Union raiding forces, but principally that it might easily be shipped by blockade-runners. The great portion of it belonged to the so-called Confederate government. It was found stored in different sections of the city. Soon after

General Sherman took possession of the cotton many persons went into the warehouses on their own account, in Savannah, and marked a large number of bales. Many of these marks represented persons who were dead. The persons who thus marked the bales and professed to be genuine claimants of the cotton were not the legitimate living representatives of the former owners. These facts being known, an order was immediately issued to prevent persons entering the warehouses where the cotton was stored. The statements that private marks had been obliterated since the cotton came into the hands of the Government are pronounced untrue. The rebel government brand was removed from a large number of bales by the rebels at the time of the evacuation, with the intention of claiming the cotton themselves. Many such persons are undoubtedly among the loyal claimants. In removing those brands a great part of the bagging was destroyed. New bagging was necessary, which was furnished under the superintendence of General Meigs. The United States agents or officers did not obliterate any private mark on a single bale of the Savannah cotton.

The order forbidding persons from going into the warehouses, besides the reasons above stated, was to prevent the rebel government agents from putting fire to it, which was several times attempted by them.

Mr. Draper, in a public notice, announced that any statement that any party desired to make concerning the cotton would be received by an agent designated for that purpose. Many statements have been made and have been carefully viewed by Mr. Draper, and at the proper time will receive due consideration from the Secretary of the Treasury. Within the next ten days a part of this cotton will be advertised for sale in New York.

WASHINGTON, February 19, 1867.

HON. H. STANBURY, Attorney General, U. S.:

Sir: I am a native resident of Savannah, Georgia, and am and always have been true and loyal to the United States. This was well understood by its enemies during the war, and by its friends since their entrance into Savannah.

When the United States army entered that city, the Confederate forces having previously retired, I had (117) one hundred and seventeen bales cotton and some other property stored away upon my own premises. General Sherman, commanding the army, and General Geary, commanding the city, were informed as to my conduct throughout the war and made my property an exception to the general rule of treatment. Under general orders from the Secretary of War,

however, the Treasury agent, Simeon Draper, Esq., took possession of my cotton, I endeavored to have it released by orders from Washington, but failed, (see letters from Secretary Welles hereto annexed.) My cotton was therefore shipped to New York, and wrongfully disposed of as captured.

No property of mine was treated by the military as captured so long as they had control of it. General Sherman made a distinction between the property of loyal men and rebels, so did all the other officers of his command. If the disposition of my property had been controlled by them I feel confident that no property of mine would have been treated as captured, and, in support of this opinion, I annex hereto the copy of a letter from General Sherman to Mr. Draper, touching this, my cotton. I also annex a copy of a letter from General Geary, while he was commanding the city, and one from General Beckwith of the same purport.

Now, sir, I respectfully submit that the commanding officers of a victorious army are competent to decide what property recovered to their possession shall be treated as a capture, and what shall not be so treated; and further, that they did except my property from that which they regarded as captured. General Sherman and the other officers regarded my unfaltering fidelity to my country and its institutions, throughout four years of insult, and threats, and persecutions and robberies practiced upon me by enemies, as entitling me to be treated as a friend. They treated me accordingly and had no intention of taking the remnant of my property from me and treating it as captured.

I claim that this cotton has been improperly treated as captured by Treasury Agent Draper, and that he had no right to take possession of it and dispose of it under the act of March 10, 1863, and that the value thereof should be restored to me by the Secretary of the Treasury without further delay.

I desire to present my application to the Secretary of the Treasury for the proceeds of this cotton, and I desire to present with it the opinion as to whether upon proofs of the facts herein stated and the letters herewith submitted, my cotton can be fairly treated as captured or abandoned property.

I know that the Secretary is disposed to do justice, and I believe that if you state your opinion to be that the status of the cotton was not such as to authorize Mr. Draper to take possession of it under the act of March, 1863, the Secretary will promptly pay the proceeds to me. I, therefore, earnestly beg your consideration and reply at an early date, and remain,

Very respectfully, your ob't servant,

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, March 2, 1867.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE, Esq.,

Sir: I am directed by the Attorney General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ult., and to say in reply that it is forbidden by the invariable rule of this office, and by statute, for him to give official opinions upon questions of law, except when propounded by the President or the head of a Department. The papers are therefore herewith returned.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

M. F. PLEASANTS,

Chief Clerk.

The following special order will be read with interest, especially by those immediately interested, which latter can obtain their lands by calling or sending a person duly authorized to receipt for the same to Lieut. J. Murray Hoag, Sub. Assistant Commissioner of B. R., F. and A. L., Savannah, Ga.:

BUREAU REFUGEES, FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS, OFFICE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, STATE OF GEORGIA, SAVANNAH, Ga., January 19, 1867.—*Special Orders*. No. 6.—The provisions of sections 9 and 11, of the acts of Congress, entitled "An Act to continue in force and to amend an act to establish a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen and Refugees, and for other purposes," having been complied with, the following property is hereby restored to the former owners, subject to the approval of Major Gen. Howard, Commissioner:

Estate of Dr. Adams, Skidaway Island.
Estate of W. R. Symons, Skidaway Island.
Estate of Wm. Zeigler, Skidaway Island.
Estate of John Screven, Brewton Hill.
Estate of Lawton, Ogeechee river.
Estate of W. C. Williams, Ogeechee river.
Estate of Wm. Patterson, Ogeechee river.
Geo. Screven, Mifflin, Chatham co.
Wm. Habersham, Grove Hill, Chatham co.
John R. Cheves, Grove Point, Chatham co.
Miss H. H. Elliott, New Hope, Chatham co.
Henry Dubignon, Jekyl's Island, Chatham co.
McAlpin, Burnside Island, Chatham co.
M. C. King, Island, Chatham co.
Jacob Walburg, St. Catherine's Island, Liberty co.
Kollock, Ossabaw Island, Bryan co.
Thomas Spaulding, Sapelo Island, McIntosh co.
A. M. Kenan, Sapelo Island, McIntosh co.
Morel, Ossabaw Island, Bryan co.
A. M. McDonald, Ossabaw Island, Bryan co.
J. H. Couper, St. Simon's Island, Glynn co.
H. B. Goid, St. Simon's Island, Glynn co.
T. R. King, St. Simon's Island, Glynn co.
Jas. Postell, St. Simon's Island, Glynn co.

DAVIS TILLSON,

Brevet Major Gen. and Asst. Commissioner.
Approved, O. O. HOWARD,
Major General Comm'r.

WAR DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF REFUGEES,
FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS,
WASHINGTON, April 9, 1867.

To his Excellency, ANDREW JOHNSON, President of the United States:

Sir: I recommend that the case of Mr. Wyly Woodbridge, a truly loyal man of Savannah, Ga., be taken under special consideration. His cotton was his property, and should have been secured to him, if it could lawfully be secured to any owners under like circumstances in the United States.

I believe, on careful investigation, his claims will constitute an exceptional case.

Very resp^tfully, your obedient servant,
O. O. HOWARD,
Major General.

Mr. Woodbridge's loyalty I have never heard questioned. If there is any claimant for the cotton captured at Savannah, Ga., entitled to investigation and return of proceeds in case the claim is properly proven, his is one. I concur with Gen. Howard in recommending an early investigation.

U. S. GRANT,
General.

April 13, 1867.

I cordially unite in recommending the case of Mr. Woodbridge to the special consideration of the President, and of the Treasury Department, believing that he is entitled to the fullest exercise of all the legal power which exists to relieve him and his property.

W. P. FESSENDEN.

I concur with Mr. Fessenden in commending the case of Mr. Woodbridge to consideration.

ROSCOE CONKLING.
Z. CHANDLER.
JAMES W. NYE.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
April 22, 1867.

Respectfully referred to the honorable the Secretary of the Treasury, for a full and impartial investigation, with the hope that relief can be extended to the petitioner upon principles of equity and justice.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
April 30, 1867.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, on the 27th instant, at the hands of Mr. Wyly Woodbridge, of Savannah, a letter from that gentleman to the Attorney General relative to certain cotton claimed as his private property, captured at Savannah; a reply thereto; a letter from General Howard on the same subject, addressed to yourself, with endorsements thereon by General Grant, Hon. W. P. Fessenden, Hon. Roscoe Conkling, Hon. Z. Chandler, and Hon. Jas.

W. Nye, all covered by your reference of the case to this Department, under date of 22d instant, for a full and impartial investigation, with the hope that relief can be extended to the petitioner upon principles of equity and justice.

The claim of Mr. Woodbridge has repeatedly been called to my attention, and I have as often and in the fullest and plainest manner possible explained to him and his friends my inability, under existing legislation, to take any action in regard to it.

The facts in relation to the case appear to be briefly and simply these: that the cotton claimed by Mr. Woodbridge was taken, with other cotton in Savannah, after the capture of that city, by the military authorities and by them transferred to an agent of the Treasury Department, by whom it was in turn shipped to New York, where it was sold, and the proceeds arising therefrom have been paid into the Treasury in compliance with law. According to the acts of Congress concerning captured and abandoned property, by the opinion of the Attorney General on the subject, dated July 5, 1865, the Secretary of the Treasury is precluded from paying over to claimants the proceeds of any property so taken and disposed of, or from affording any relief whatever in the premises. Nor is it competent for him—the facts above stated being established—to inquire whether or not the property of which claims is made has been rightfully captured, &c., &c. His duty and power in regard to such property are limited to seeing that it is sold and its proceeds paid into the Treasury, where they must await the action of the Court of Claims when duly invoked.

Under these circumstances I cannot take jurisdiction of the case under notice, and I see no remedy for Mr. Woodbridge except in the Court of Claims or before Congress.

I have the honor, therefore, to return the papers alluded to for such action by you in regard to the case as you may consider lawful and expedient, and to remain,

Respectfully, your obedient servant,
H. McCULLOCH.

Secretary of the Treasury.

TO THE PRESIDENT.

WASHINGTON CITY, *May 8, 1867.*

TO THE PRESIDENT:

Sir: This petition is respectfully to show that in answer to your endorsement on my papers relative to the seizure of my 117 bales cotton at Savannah, and dated "Executive Mansion, April 22, 1867, respectfully referred to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury for a full and impartial investigation.

with the hope that relief can be extended to the petitioner upon principles of equity and justice," the honorable Secretary's reply is as follows: "Under these circumstances I cannot take jurisdiction of the case under notice, and I see no remedy for Mr. Woodbridge except in the Court of Claims or before Congress. I have the honor to return the papers alluded to for such action by you in regard to the case as you may consider lawful and expedient, and to remain. &c."

Thus no point has been gained as to the peculiar merits of my individual claim; the expectations of my friends remaining unrealized, and the honorable Secretary indisposed to take jurisdiction of the matter, and uncertain whether my remedy lies in Congress or the Court of claims.

Your petitioner therefore relies most humbly upon you, as Commander-in-Chief, for relief and protection in his just rights; and in furtherance thereof he prays that you will submit his case to the honorable Attorney General of the United States for his decision of the question at issue, by your approval and endorsement of the inclosed letter, written by your petitioner, dated 25th February last, and addressed to that officer.

I have the honor to be, Mr. President,

Your obedient servant,

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE.

At the request of Mr. Woodbridge, this case is referred for consideration to the honorable the Attorney General.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

April 13, 1867.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution adopted in the Senate on the 12th instant, in the following words:

"*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to inform the Senate whether he, or any one by him authorized, has employed an attorney or solicitor to represent that Department before the Court of Claims in certain cases pending in said court; if yea, what counsel or solicitor has been thus employed, and in what cases, what fee or fees has been or will be paid him for said services, and out of what fund, and under what law or authority, he has been thus employed."

In response thereto I have the honor to state that, after carefully considering the subject in all its aspects, it has seemed to me that in the trial of a large and important class of cases soon to be disposed of in the Court of Claims, the public interests imperatively demand that some assistance should be rendered to the solicitors representing the Government therein; and I have thought it my

duty, as the head of an executive department directly affected by the result of such suits, to afford such aid in the premises as I properly could.

The cases to which I refer are those relating to property captured by Union forces during the late rebellion, the proceeds of which—millions of dollars in amount—are now sought to be obtained through the Court of Claims. Many of the claims of this character are for large sums of money, and are being prosecuted with extraordinary vigor by an array of counsel combining talent, industry, and resources not often seen together, and who are generally incited to extra exertion by fees unusually large in amount, involving often a share of the amounts that in the event of success will be recovered by their clients. Considering the very large number of cases of this class, and the little time consequently allowed to the three solicitors of the court for the preparation of proper defenses, it is unreasonable to expect them—able, vigilant, and faithful as they are acknowledged to be—to meet satisfactorily and successfully in all instances the influences and talent arrayed against them.

In view of these facts, and considering the large sums of money involved, as well as the important and far-reaching principles likely to be established in the disposition of some of the cases first to be decided, I have entertained the idea of employing associate counsel to aid the solicitors in preparing and arguing some of the cases which will probably be determined at an early day. The general or implied authority for this proceeding is believed to exist in the first section of the act of Congress, approved February 26, 1853. If it is not therein contained, it is my opinion that the provisions of the acts in relation to captured and abandoned property, approved respectively March 12, 1863, and July 2, 1864, justify the employment by this Department of counsel to protect the public interests relative to such property, the expense thereof to be defrayed from the proceeds of the property received and collected under said acts.

Acting under this belief, I have informally asked the co-operation in this respect of Hon. Edgar Cowan, a gentleman of admitted ability, learning, and resources as an advocate and jurist, and requested him to consult with the solicitors of the Court of Claims as to the propriety and extent of the assistance so proposed to be rendered, and, generally, as to the best course to be pursued in the premises for the protection of the public interests, with the view of finally adopting such plan of proceeding as might be recommended or thought most expedient after such consultation; but as yet no definite

arrangement has been made with him, no money has been paid to him, nor to any other person on this account, none has been agreed or promised to be paid, and no rate of compensation for such service as he might render has been fixed upon or spoken of.

In this contemplated proceeding I have been actuated solely by a sense of duty, and by what I conceive to be sound public policy; and I concluded to employ Mr. Cowan because I knew of no man so able who is unconnected with any proceedings against the Government, and who would be likely to be so reasonable in his charges for professional service.

If, in the course I had thus proposed to pursue in the premises, I have, in the opinion of the Senate, acted without authority of law, or injudiciously in any respect, I shall be glad to be so advised.

With great respect,

Your obedient servant,

HUGH McCULLOCH,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. B. F. WADE,

President of the Senate.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES 9TH DECEMBER, 1867.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to furnish the Senate the names and residences of all individuals to whom any property or its proceeds in the custody of the Department, or any of its agents, as captured and abandoned property was released or given up. To state also in his answer the nature, kind, quality, and value of the property released or given up to such parties respectively, and the amount of money returned to each of such individuals, and whether, as preliminary thereto, such individuals have been required to pay any fee or compensation of any kind to any attorney, or other person, and also to report to the Senate the evidence upon which said property was released or proceeds paid over to such persons respectively, and under what law or authority such property was released or paid over. And also to state whether any of such property or its proceeds were released or paid over to persons who had been engaged in rebellion against the United States, or who had given aid and comfort to such rebellion, and whether before releasing such property or returning its proceeds the Department required the claimants to establish their loyalty by competent proof: and also a copy of any correspondence which

has taken place between the Department and the Court of Claims, or any of its officers, in regard to judgments by said court, or the payment thereof in what are known as cotton cases.

TREASURY REPORT RELATIVE TO CAPTURED AND ABANDONED PROPERTY IN THE SOUTH.

The Secretary of the Treasury on the 20th sent a communication to the Senate, in reply to a resolution of that body, in relation to the action of the Department with reference to captured and abandoned property. The Secretary says:

Releases of miscellaneous property other than cotton have been small in amount. Household furniture, family relics, books, &c., generally taken by military orders for temporary use, and subsequently transferred to Treasury agents, were ordered to be restored to the original owners by the Secretary's circular letter of September 6, 1865, whenever the conditions named therein were complied with. In one case, (that of Lewis Washington,) the household furniture having been sold at auction by mistake of the Treasury agent, the proceeds of sale amounting to \$1,162, were restored in lieu of the furniture. In compliance with the request of subcommittee of the joint committee on retrenchment, dated April 4, 1867, no release of property held as captured or abandoned have since been made, nor claims in connection therewith paid, except for expenses in collecting the property. In the interval of a month between the report of the Senate and the request of the Committee on Retrenchment, claims to the amount of \$7,326 were allowed. One compromise, however, has been made in the case of a suit pending against the United States in the United States Circuit Court of New York, known as the Dennistoun cotton case. The agent of the United States was under a replevin bond in this case of \$400,000, which amount of money the Government deposited in the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company of New York. As this cotton was not ostensibly the property of the late rebel government, nor captured nor abandoned, but was alleged to have been purchased legally after the close of the rebellion, from a foreign firm, by Dennistoun, Wood & Co., of New York, it was thought advisable by eminent counsel to pay the sum of \$53,000 for a final settlement, and release the money on deposit. It was the opinion of his predecessor in office that it was not only the right, but the duty, of the Treasury Department to examine the facts in relation to all property coming into the hands of its agents, and if it appeared that the same had been taken in violation of law to restore it or its proceeds to its owners. The rule as adopted by them was sufficiently broad to authorize them to adjudicate the title of property taken by the army and navy and turned over to agents of the Treasury Department. But after the capture of Savannah and of the large amounts of cotton therein, the Attorney General gave the Department his opinion that all questions arising with reference to the property taken by the military authorities could be adjudicated only in the Court of Claims, which opinion has since governed the action of this Department as to the cases considered fairly within the provisions of the same. In relation, however, to cotton or other property taken possession of by Treasury agents without military assistance or intervention, the Secretary has followed the practice of his predecessors, and has investigated the circumstances of the seizures, and if it has appeared in any case that the property was not rightfully subject to seizure he has restored the same or its proceeds to its lawful owners.

RECAPITULATION.

From report of the Secretary of Treasury, January 20,
1868, Senate Document No. 22.

Number of bales of voluntarily abandoned cotton released.....	2,207
Number of bales of erroneously seized cotton released.....	6,356
Number of bales of cotton released on basis of purchasing regulations.....	1,003

Total number of bales released..... 9,566

Amount allowed on claims for cotton voluntarily abandoned.....	\$616,843 44
Amount allowed on claims for cotton erroneously seized, &c.....	1,018,450 83
Amount allowed on claims adjusted on basis of purchasing regulations.....	520,144 77
Amount allowed on claims for salvage.....	254,728 92

Total amount allowed on all claims... 2,210,476 96

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

SOLICITOR'S OFFICE, May 26, 1864.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, asking my opinion upon the question, "Whether, in cases where property is turned over to agents of this Department by military officers, under the act of Congress approved March 12, 1863, the Secretary of the Treasury has the power to inquire into the facts attending the action of the military authorities, and to so construe the act as to decide whether the property so turned over was actually captured or abandoned [property,] and if satisfied it was not, to release it to claimants: or whether he must regard and treat, as therein prescribed, all property so received from military authorities, leaving to the Court of Claims the question of capture," and to say "that in my judgment" the fact that such property may have been turned over to the agent of this Department by military authorities does not in any manner affect the power or duty of the Department or its agent to inquire whether or not the property is in truth such as is described by the act, and that both the power and duty to make such inquiry, first in the agent, and next in the head of the Treasury Department, of which such agent is a subordinate officer, seems to me to arise necessarily out of the nature of the duties to be performed. The agent is not to take all property indiscriminately, but such only as is specified by law.

Who is to determine whether any given parcel of property is such as he is required to take or not? I cannot doubt that it is first himself and afterward his superior, the Secretary of the Treasury.

I return herewith the papers transmitted

with your letter, and have the honor to be, with high respect,

EDWARD JORDAN,
Solicitor of the Treasury.

Hon. S. P. CHASE.

Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

September 6, 1865.

Sir: Believing that property of that character does not fairly come within the meaning of the acts of Congress relating to captured and abandoned property, my desire is that, if there are any articles of household furniture, books, or personal or family relics in your possession, or under your control, they be restored to all loyal owners, or those who have availed themselves of the benefits of the President's proclamation of amnesty, and who are not excepted from, or who have obtained from him, a special pardon, on the payment by them of all expenses incurred in their collection and care, and the execution of a proper bond of indemnity.

Until otherwise directed, no sales of this class of property will be made; and if any such should be in your hands, when you close up the affairs of your office, you will turn it over, to await further instructions from me, to a collector of customs at the most suitable place or places in your agency, taking his official receipt therefor.

Respectfully,

H. McCULLOCH,

Secretary of the Treasury.

O. H. BURBRIDGE, Esq.,

Sup'g Special Agt. North'n Divis.,

4th Agency, Texas.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE,

April 24, 1866.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a bundle of papers, containing the claim of Colonel John S. Williams for three hundred and thirty-four bales of cotton, seized by the Treasury agents, with an indorsement that they are for my consideration.

As no legal question has been asked, I suppose it is intended that I should express an opinion as to the legality and propriety of holding the cotton seized by the Treasury agents. The facts, as disclosed in this bundle of papers, are substantially as follows:

The three hundred and thirty-four bales of cotton were the property of Joseph P. Billups. When Billups was from home, having left authority with no one to sell and dispose of this cotton, his father assumed authority to make a contract with the so-called Confederate Government for it. Under the

contract so made by the father, the cotton was entered upon the books of the Confederate Government as the property of that Government. Joseph P. Billups, as soon as informed of this pretended contract by his father, repudiated and denied it. No agent of the Confederate Government ever had possession of the cotton. It continued to remain in the possession and under the control of Joseph P. Billups, or his agents.

After the fall of the so-called Confederate Government, and the surrender of its armies, and after Joseph P. Billups had been pardoned by the President, the Treasury agents seized the cotton as the property of the Confederate Government, because they found it entered upon the books of that government. Prior to this seizure by the Treasury, Billups had sold the cotton to Colonel John S. Williams.

This cotton was not captured by the military forces of the United States and turned over by them to the Treasury agents, nor was it seized by the Treasury agents as abandoned property; but the Treasury agents took it, believing it to be the property of the Confederate Government.

If it was in truth the property of the Confederate Government, the Treasury agents were right in seizing it; and *prima facie*, it was their property. But if it was not the property of the Confederate Government, if it was not abandoned property, and if it had not been captured by the armies of the United States, the agents of the Treasury Department would not do right in holding the cotton. The agents, though right in making the seizure, cannot be justified in holding on to the property, after it is made manifest by the proofs, as in this case, that the cotton did not fall within any of the predicaments before mentioned.

As the cotton was not the property of the so-called Confederate Government, had, in fact, never become a part of the common fund upon which the rebellion rested, and was neither abandoned nor captured, I think it should be restored.

With highest respect, &c..

I have the honor to remain,

JAMES SPEED,

Attorney General.

THE PRESIDENT.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

February 26, 1866.

GENTLEMEN: It appears, after a careful consideration of all the papers submitted and all the questions involved in the matter of your application for the release of and permission to ship certain "two thousand and seventy-eight (2,078) bales of cotton

bought by you, on foreign account, during the existence of the late rebellion," that there is not adduced sufficient evidence to warrant the Government in holding the same as captured property, on account of its having been purchased for the purpose of transporting it through the blockade lately established by the authorities of the United States, and thereby violating the laws thereof and aiding and abetting the rebellion. I have, therefore, decided to release the said cotton, to wit:

634 bales at Augusta, Georgia.

582 bales at Macon, Georgia.

297 bales at Butler, Georgia.

72 bales at Americus, Georgia.

31 bales at Albany, Georgia.

13 bales at Montezuma, Georgia.

137 bales at Spartanburg, South Carolina.

12 bales at Columbia, South Carolina.

or wherever the same may be found. And I do hereby release the said cotton and restore the custody thereof to you, with permission to ship and dispose of the same as you may desire without hindrance or molestation on the part of this Government, or any of its agents or representatives, "except that it is understood, and you will please to take notice, that in releasing and surrendering the custody of said cotton, no right or claim to it or the proceeds thereof which the Government may have, or at any time chose to assert, under the provisions of the act of Congress, approved August 6, 1861, is in any wise waived or prejudiced."

"Subject to this understanding, all agents or officers of this department having any of the cotton named above in their possession or custody, or under their control, are hereby authorized and directed to deliver the same to you or your duly empowered attorney: "Provided, you first pay, or cause to be paid, all costs, charges, or expenses paid or incurred by them in any way on account of said cotton, and execute and deliver, also, to any agent from whom any of it is received, a certificate of probable cause of seizure, which will protect and hold harmless the Government and its officers and agents against any claim for loss or damage sustained on account of its seizure, detention, or removal."

Any agent or officer taking any action under this letter will retain a certified copy as his authority therefor, and promptly report to the Department, in detail, all things done by him in the premises.

Please acknowledge in writing, the receipt hereof, signifying your acceptance or non-acceptance of the terms herein stated.

Respectfully,

H. McCULLOCH,

Secretary of the Treasury.

Messrs. GIBBES & Co., Charleston, S. C.

P. S.—The foregoing will apply also to—
16 bales at Augusta, Georgia, and
66 bales at Union district, South Carolina,
(or wherever the same may be found,) claim-
ed as the private property of Messrs. Gibbes
& Co.

H. McCULLOCH.
Secretary of the Treasury.

*Correspondence in relation to cotton cases in
the Court of Claims.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, July 1, 1867.

Sir: I have learned informally that a judgment has been rendered in favor of the plaintiff in a number of the cases familiarly designated as the "cotton cases" in the Court of Claims, and I have seen in the newspapers the opinion rendered therein by the Chief Justice of the Court on the 25th ultimo, but I am without any knowledge as to the character of the evidence adduced on either side during the trial.

I have to request, therefore, that you will furnish me with a copy of all the papers in each of the cases referred to: and, with a view to the full protection of the public interests in the premises, I have to request, also, that I may hereafter be furnished, before judgment is rendered, with a copy of all the papers in any case the subject-matter of which originated in this Department.

Very respectfully,

H. McCULLOCH.
Secretary of the Treasury.

SAMUEL H. HUNTINGTON, Esq.
*Chief Clerk Court of Claims,
Washington, D. C.*

GREENSBOROUGH, PA., July 9, 1867.

Dear Sir: I see by the newspapers that the Court of Claims have ruled some cases in favor of the claimants of captured cotton. I do not know what particular cases are thus favored, or on what grounds the court puts the decision, but I am more and more convinced that "no one who submitted to the Confederate States, obeyed their laws, and contributed to support their government, ought to recover under the statute," because it is impossible for such a one to show that he did not give aid and comfort to the rebellion. The question of "aid and comfort" can only arise in the case of those who did not reside within the circumscribed limits of the enemy's country, for all within it, and submitting as citizens do generally, are themselves enemies, and we make their property (whether right or wrong) the subject of capture, no matter what might have been their disposition toward us. Some of those whose

property was condemned in the prize cases were as loyal as any of the cotton claimants, and yet it was of no avail.

We might as well in equity restore to a foreign enemy property captured in war, on his showing that he was of opinion that our cause was a just one and that his own government was in the wrong, as to restore this cotton, inasmuch as we put the Confederates on the same footing as public enemies all through the contest, and to discriminate in favor of the present claimants is not only absurd but unjust, if the statute will fairly bear any other construction. I was as much opposed to the policy of making private property on land subject of prize and capture in the war as any one, but it was done, and there are thousands of those who suffered from it who have a far higher equity demanding indemnity than the plaintiffs in the cotton cases, not one of whom, so far as I know, ever did anything more than wish us well, while in all other respects they behaved just as the great mass of the southern people did. Their loyalty to us could not be imputed to them as a crime by the rebels, as they were careful not to manifest it by overt acts. Nor can we, for the same reason, look upon it as being very meritorious.

Of course you will direct appeals to be taken to the Supreme Court.

Yours truly,

EDGAR COWAN.

Hon. HUGH McCULLOCH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

HEADQ'RS CHIEF ENGINEER OF DEFENCES.
WASHINGTON, April 24, 1865.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War:

Sir: I write this in behalf of an old friend, Mr. Wyly Woodbridge, of Savannah, Georgia.

Mr. Woodbridge is one of the few southern men of property, social position, and political influence who has remained true to the Union, through good and through evil report.

He has a son who has been in the Confederate army, who was wounded, and is now a prisoner at Point Lookout, and he desires permission to visit him.

If not inconsistent with the regulations of the Department, you will confer a favor on a gentleman whose loyalty has been above suspicion, by granting him permission to visit his son.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
H. S. ALEXANDER,
Lieutenant Colonel A. D. C.

[From "Hospital Life in the Army of the Potomac," by William Howell Reed, page 165.]

WOODBRIDGE, THE GEORGIA SOLDIER.

"Among these sick and wounded men was one who had attracted my attention from his superior intelligence, his culture and refinement, which were in marked contrast to the repulsiveness of his outer garb. His clothing was torn and thread-bare—his pantaloons in ribbons about his feet, his hat without a brim, his hair bleached and tangled, and from a recent fall on the march he was encased in mud. Holding out his hand, which was covered with a stained and ragged handkerchief, he addressed me and asked if I would amputate his fingers, which were badly mangled by a fragment of a shell. The wound had not been dressed since his musket had been shot from his hands nine days before, nor had the steel splinters been extracted. I removed the clotted covering, and found his hand in a most offensive condition, so utterly neglected had it been. The bones were uninjured, and with proper care the hand might yet be saved. The wound was cleansed and dressed with fresh lint and bandages, and as I was about to pass to another case he said: 'I am faint for want of food; can you get me some hard-tack?' One of the guard at his camp cheerfully took from his haversack his ration of uncooked pork and cut a liberal slice, which he gave me with some hard bread. I took it to my rebel soldier, who ate it with an eager appetite and a thankful smile, saying that if I knew what he had lived upon since he started on the campaign, I would realize how near starvation he was. Said he, 'I had a pint of corn, and for nine days that was my only food.' But looking back to a luxurious home, said he sadly, 'I have not been always thus reduced. My home is in Savannah. I joined a battalion of young men in 1861, because I believed in the southern cause. For three years I fought and suffered, a private soldier, until at last my eyes were opened to the rapacity of the leaders in Richmond, and I have been longing for the old flag again. There are but few of us left now,' said he, 'of those boys who went out in '61, and when they get the news of our last battle there will be mourning in Savannah, for they were her choicest sons. But I thank God the war is over.' His father, a devoted and consistent Union man, now the Collector at Savannah, was at this time in Washington. I wrote that Henry was a prisoner, slightly wounded. A few weeks after this time they were united after this separation of years, and I had afterward the satisfaction of taking them both by the hand and receiv-

ing their kindly attentions in a northern city, when the raw pork and hard-tack were recalled as the most delicious of luxuries."

SAVANNAH, February 22, 1868.

Dear Father: I am to-day in receipt of your letter dated 18th inst. We all are happy to know that you are well. To-day I have made copies of three of your letters, written to my brothers after the war, which will aid you in furthering your objects. I have also written to Virginia for the letters I left in charge of Miss Seldon, asking her to forward them by express. These letters, if they are preserved, will be your strongest cards, as they contain your feelings and actions during the war.

We have not drawn up the statements you requested, for we are afraid that they might do us all, as young men, injury, and perhaps might not do any good in Washington. Every one here knows your avowed Unionism during the war. All your letters to us in the army show that you were not only unwilling to assist us, but that you did all you could to prejudice us against the leaders and the cause, and in truth even went so far as to write me that I would be acting honorably if I deserted and went on the side of the United States Government. I must say that I was hurt and mortified at such a request. Indeed, so much was I afraid if your letters were seen, that I would be arrested on suspicion, that I dared not carry them on my person, and hid them away. They can now, I think, be brought to light, and I will produce them, merely because justice has not been done you by those who I know you have in your power, if you desire to use such power. I only wish that they had let you alone, as it would have been pleasant for them as well as your sons. Do you think that I can ridicule others, when I was guilty of the same folly myself? This would not be just, and my feelings will not allow me to do so. At the same time, I feel that there is no man living who would have undergone the trials and mortifications that you had to submit to for the love of a Government which has, as you now see, no respect for patriotism. There is a saying that "virtue has its rewards," but I must say that it has signally failed in your case, and by your determination to put so much confidence in the Government, you have lost your friends, and your Government will not support you. Do give up the hope of getting justice and come home and be happy with us. You will receive no thanks for your endeavors, and will bring nothing but unhappiness to yourself.

Hoping that you will see that your sons

will protect you, irrespective of political feelings, and that they all love you,

I remain very affectionately, your son,

HENRY H. WOODBRIDGE.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE, Esq., Washington.

NEW YORK, February 19, 1868.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE, Esq.,

At Willard's Hotel, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir—I send you the originals of your letters of the 24th and 29th of November, 1st, 7th and 24th of December, 1860, 4th and 31st January, 9th and 19th of February, 18th, 19th and 30th April, and the 7th and 13th of May, 1861, all having some bearing on the subject, and I hope may prove serviceable in accomplishing your object. I have been at a loss to know what official to go before to verify them, but have concluded that a notary would be as proper as any other; if not, and you will return them to me, I will execute the certificate before any other you may suggest. I know that throughout all the rebellion you were in sentiment and action a true and loyal citizen. Thanking you for your good wishes.

I am, very truly, yours,

WM. WHITLOCK, JR.

WILLARD'S HOTEL,

WASHINGTON, March 2, 1868.

My Dear Sir: You asked me some time ago to remind you of my desire to have an answer to my official letter, made so by the President's kind endorsement. Fear of intrusion has prevented my doing so until now, when necessity compels me to call your attention to the same.

During the rebellion, at very much personal sacrifice in Savannah and Georgia, I remained the open opponent of the tyranny around me, and a bright and shining light of the United States Government. I did so from a sense of duty.

After the occupancy of Savannah, and the restoration of the United States authority, I was universally praised by the masses, and acknowledged to be worthy of the support of the Government in the protection of my person and property. No one attached blame to me. My enemies had fled, and were absent from the city. Could I have then foreseen events I would have continued a quiet citizen, without claims to being a Union man. I had nothing to regret politically in the past, and might have done a prosperous business. Office was forced upon me contrary to my wishes, and I deemed it my duty to accept, but soon resigned for my personal comfort: that gave dissatisfac-

tion, and I am now the victim of circumstances.

General Sherman, by special letter, proposed to save my property, and to give me the management of it. I had a right to be happy, if I could be, amid the general destruction. By the neglect or greed of Treasury agents my cotton was appropriated to the Government. That Government had not as much right to it as any other Government or person, because being my own Government it had left me without protection and aid. For three years I have been engaged in the most humiliating and useless struggle to obtain that which was surreptitiously taken from me, and to prove this, I submit the papers to show you how easy it has been for others to obtain rights denied to a Union man.

By this action my enemies have been encouraged to persecute me, and, as my last hope, I am forced to appeal to Congress. In that body I am a stranger, with no particular support in my favor to induce the members to take up a private claim. I beg that if you can do anything for me officially, you will not suffer me to fail in my attempts to maintain my position and standing among all respectable and true men. I am,

Very respectfully and truly yours,

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE.

HON. H. STANBERRY.

SAVANNAH, April 7, 1868.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE, Esq.:

My Dear Sir: In reply to your son's interrogatory concerning the resolutions, I beg leave to note that I distinctly recollect the circumstances connected with their publication. The series of additional resolutions which I published in the "Republican," of December 29th, and which were afterwards republished with the full account of the first meeting held at the Exchange, were handed to me by you, with a special request for their publication. You informed me at that time that you had intended to offer them at the meeting, but before you could introduce them others were presented and unanimously adopted. For this reason, as I understand you, you did not press the reading of your resolutions, but contented yourself by having them inserted with the report of the whole proceedings.

Hoping you are in the full enjoyment of health, and that we shall soon have the pleasure of greeting you in your native city.

I remain, yours truly,

JOHN E. HAYES,

Editor and Proprietor "Republican."

RESOLUTIONS.

We have been furnished by a citizen with the following patriotic resolutions, which were intended to be introduced at the late citizens' meeting, but were not offered because he was satisfied with those reported by the committee and adopted by the meeting. We see in these resolutions and those passed by the recent meeting a bright ray of hope for the speedy return of those rational and liberal ideas which pervaded the South ten years ago.

The dawn of a new era, a grand and glorious one, is fast approaching, and we may well begin to realize the truth of Longfellow's lines,

"Behind every dark cloud there is a silver lining."

Our national horizon is ablaze with the bright lights of victory, and the faint-hearted have reason to be elated by the brilliant series of successes that have ended the old year and will usher in the new year, permitting the loyal of our land to enjoy a genuine "merry Christmas."

In public meeting, Savannah, December 27, 1864:

Resolved, That the citizens of Savannah consider this the proper occasion to reaffirm the following principles:

The Government of the United States was established by the people as a nation. The Constitution declares: "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for a common defence, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." "This Constitution and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made, or which shall be made under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land, and the judges in every State shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding."

"The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several State Legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several States, shall be bound by oath or affirmation to support this Constitution, but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

The American Government may be compared to the grand solar system of nature. The sun is the center, giving light, life and government to the revolving planets, keeping each one in its proper orbit; when one planet goes out of its place it becomes involved in ruin. So the States must, in obedience to the common law, revolve each in its accustomed orbit, or ruin and desolation follow.

The election of Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency of the United States in 1860 was legal, and ought to have been submitted to by all of the people of the United States.

Resolved, That the secession of Georgia, in consequence of the result of that election, was a hasty and

unwise act, brought about by agitating politicians, and forced upon many by a threat of revolution. It was accepted by eminent statesmen as a necessity to keep peace in the State. It was, we believe, an outrage and a cheat upon a majority of the people of the State. It deprived us of our national birthright as American citizens; it has involved us in despotism and general ruin; it was national suicide, and the cause of all our present evils and misfortunes.

In pursuance of the above declaration of principles it follows that in our judgment the secession or withdrawal of the State from the Union is null and void; and the present organization of the State government of Georgia is an usurpation; that it is the duty of the State to renew its allegiance to the Government of the United States, and claim the protection guaranteed by the Constitution to maintain in each of the States "a republican form of government."

That in order to facilitate the restoration of Georgia to the Union, and the blessings of the old flag, we regard it as eminently proper and right that the people of this State should embrace the principles of the President's Proclamation of Amnesty and his plan for the restoration of the Union; and that for the purpose of fulfilling the obligations of the Constitution which guarantees to Georgia a republican form of government, the President of the United States should appoint some officer to supplant the present usurping Governor of Georgia, with authority to call a convention of the people of the State for the purpose of renewing their allegiance to the United States, and restoring to the State all its privileges in the Union which have been lost or held in abeyance by the usurping power of the Confederate Government and the present State Government of Georgia.

Resolved, That we cannot refrain from expressing gratitude to General Sherman and the officers and soldiers of his army, for their generous and magnanimous treatment of the citizens of Savannah since their entry into the city; for the good order and general deportment of the troops, which, we believe, can be justly said to compare favorably with that of any army of such large numbers.

APPROPRIATION BY THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

FIFTH SPECIAL AGENCY OF THE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT.
SAVANNAH, April 4, 1865.

Hon. UGHL McCULLOCH,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Sir—I have forwarded this day all the cotton accounts for the month of March, and that of the last lot shipped this day, completing the entire amount of cotton found in Savannah, being thirty-eight thousand four hundred and four (38,404) bales, together with all the old bagging and rope

cuttings, two hundred and eighty-one (281) bales, and fourteen (14) bales of wool.

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't.

ALBERT G. BROWNE.

Supervising Special Agent of Treasury Department.

QUARTERMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 12, 1866.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,

Secretary of War.

Sir—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your order of the 4th inst., to report upon the letter of Wyly Woodbridge, of Savannah, Georgia, asking for proof that there was taken from his premises certain specified amounts of cotton, soon after the capture of Savannah by the United States forces. On examination of the papers of Col. H. C. Ransom, Quartermaster, in the matter of cotton captured at Savannah, it is found that on the 13th of March, 1865, Wyly Woodbridge, Savannah, reported that he had in the stores of the Savannah Steam Rice Mill, at the foot of East Broad street, on wharf lots Nos. 9 and 10, forty-three (43) bales of Sea Island cotton, marked W. W., of which numbers 1a43 were square bales; also, 74 bales of cotton, Upland, all of which were square cotton, marked W. W., Nos. 1a71.

Col. Ransom, in his registration of claimants of cotton captured at Savannah, reports as follows: March 13, 1865, Wyly Woodbridge marks W. W., No. quality, Sea Islands; M. 14, S. 1. 43. Bales 43. Marks W. W., No. 74. quality Uplands, M. 13 and 14; Uplands 74. Bales 74.

In Col. Ransom's statement of cotton shipped from Savannah he reports as follows: W. Woodbridge, March 16, 1865, schooner Marcus Hunter, AB 74 bales Upland. Nothing is found as to the disposition of the 43 bales Sea Island cotton.

Mr. Woodbridge having called in person states that the Sea Island cotton claimed by him was shipped on the ship Bazaar. I have caused further search to be made, and tally books of her cargo to be examined and compared with the receipts of the Treasury agent, A. G. Browne, Esq.

I find that 52 bales (see list herewith on tally book No. 12) are noted as marked W. W. Six numbers following *en suite* on the tally books to bales W. W., are not registered as marked at all; and it cannot be determined from the record whether they are marked W. W. or no. These 6 bales are doubtful, but this book does not specify whether the bales

marked W. W. contain Sea Island cotton or no. The receipt for the cargo of the ship Bazaar, signed by Albert G. Browne, Supervising Agent of the Treasury, embraces on the second page, which records 788 bales Sea Island cotton, the numbers noted on the list herewith as Sea Island cotton, but records no initial marks.

It will be observed that Mr. Woodbridge's letter and claim as registered, calls for 74 bales Upland and 43 bales Sea Island. The tally book of the Bazaar gives 52 bales marked W. W. but do not specify quality. The receipt of Agent Browne for the cargo of the Bazaar gives credit to Col. Ransom for the number noted, and as Sea Island cotton, but does not record the letters with which they were marked.

The weights of the bales correspond with those of the same number on the tally books, and I have no doubt that the bales marked W. W. on the tally book were shipped on the Bazaar, and were Sea Island cotton.

It remains to be proven, however, that these bales of cotton were the property of Mr. Woodbridge. The number of bales registered by the tally book of Sea Island, and marked W. W., is nine (9) bales greater than he registered or claimed, and while Col. Ransom's statement of cotton shipped from Savannah, with names of claimants, gives Mr. Woodbridge credit for 74 bales A B Upland shipped by the Marcus Hunter, in this book I find no credit for Sea Island cotton to Mr. Woodbridge.

Under the head of "no claimants" sixty-three bales of Sea Island cotton are entered in this book as shipped by the Bazaar. The above is all the information I have been able to obtain on the subject of Mr. Woodbridge's letter, by a careful examination of the papers and books in this office relating to the cotton captured at Savannah and turned over to the Treasury agent by Col. Ransom.

A. G. M. I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant.

M. C. MEIGS.

Quartermaster General Bvt. Major General U. S. A.

from the New York Evening Post.

THE COTTON SALE.

Full List of Prices.

The following is a full list of prices obtained at the auction sale of Savannah and Sea Island cotton made this afternoon by Simeon Draper, (briefly reported in our second edition.) A part of the cotton was damaged. The sales were made on the foundation of gold at 146:

Savannah Cotton.

Middling fair, 71 bales at 44½c.
 Strict Middling, 380 bales at 40c.
 Strict low Middling, 574 bales at 39½.
 Good Ordinary, 100 bales at 32½c; 250
 bales at 35½c; 399 bales at 35½c; 100 bales
 at 35½c.
 Ordinary, 181 bales at 35½c.
 Pickings, 66 bales at 12¾c.
 Pickings, 208 bales at 35c.
 Sample cotton, 180 bales at 36½c.

Damaged Savannah Cotton.

Middling fair, 17 bales at 40½c.
 Strict Middling, 50 bales at 34c; 199 bales
 at 33½c.
 Strict low Middling, 391 bales at 30c.
 Strict good Ordinary, 101 bales at 28½c;
 521 bales at 27½c.
 Ordinary, 98 bales at 23½c.
 Badly damaged, 261 bales at 20c.
 Rags and Pickings, 1,000 small bags at
 23c.
 Sea Islands Picking, 300 small bags at
 22c.

Sound Sea Island Cotton.

First quality, 142 bales at \$1 16½.
 Second quality, 100 bales at 94c; 149 bales
 at 92c.
 Third quality, 100 bales at 57c; 82 bales
 at 35c.
 Saw ginned, 39 bales at 5c.
 Strained and seedy, 98 bales at 21c.
 Re-baled Sea Island cotton, 110 bales at
 45½.
 Mixed packed, 50 bales at 27½c.

Damaged Sea Islands.

First quality, 436 bales at 72c.
 Second quality, 100 bales at 50½c; 150 bales
 at 55½c; 168 bales at 54½c; 147 bales at 54½c.
 Third quality, 50 bales at 33½c; 50 bales
 at 30½c; 59 bales at 34½c; 400 bales at 32c.
 Saw ginned, 51 bales at 35c.
 Strained and seedy, 62 bales at 31½c.

Actual value of cotton realized by the
 United States Government from actual sales,
 published in New York by Mr. Draper, at
 auction for gold.

74 bales Upland cotton, 35,752	
lbs., at 44½c. - - - - -	\$15,909 64
43 bales Sea Islands, 14,823 lbs.,	
at \$1 16½. - - - - -	17,268 80
	<hr/>
	33,178 47
Gold at 146, as stated in sales, 15,261 97	
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Proceeds. - - - - -	\$48,440 61

Had the cotton been delivered to the owner for
 his own management at private sale—as
 "Browne," supervising agent of the Treasury.

advised the Department it ought to be, (see
 his letter,) and Mr. Draper promised it would
 be, under General Sherman's letter, written
 for his protection, I would have realized 10
 or 25 per cent. more than the above proceeds.
 As the affair now stands, I have waited three
 years in trying to establish justice, and lost
 three years interest, which the Government
 has saved thereon.

Three years' interest at 7.30c.	
per annum - - - - -	\$10,608 48
	<hr/>
	59,049 09

The amount I ask for is - - - 48,294 30

PETITION.

To the Honorable the Senate and the House
 of Representatives of the United States of
 America:

Your petitioner respectfully represents that
 he is a native of the city of Savannah, Ga.,
 and always a resident thereof; that he is a
 loyal citizen of the United States, and has
 never given aid or comfort to their enemies;
 that before the war began he opposed seces-
 sion; that after the war commenced, and
 during its continuance, he maintained his
 loyalty to the Government of the United
 States, never having adhered to the rebel
 government of Georgia or of the so-called
 Confederate States, or by word or deed as-
 sisting them.

In confirmation of his statement touching
 his loyalty he respectfully refers to the testi-
 mony herein filed with the papers of the
 claim, and especially to the statements made
 by Lieutenant General W. T. Sherman, and
 Major General O. O. Howard; he also cites
 the letter of the honorable Secretary of the
 Treasury, the request of the President of the
 United States, the approval of the honorable
 Senators Fessenden, Nye, Conkling, and
 also of General Grant.

Your petitioner further represents that
 when the city of Savannah was captured by
 the National army, under the command of
 Major General Sherman, he was the owner
 of forty-three (43) bales of Sea Island cot-
 ton, weighing 14,823 pounds, and marked
 "W. W.," forty bales being round bales and
 three square bales. Said cotton was of su-
 perior quality, and at the time of the appro-
 priation by the military authorities of the
 United States was stored in a warehouse oc-
 cupied by the claimant; also at the same
 time and place, and by the same authority,
 seventy-four (74) bales of Upland cotton,
 of superior quality, weighing 35,752 pounds,
 and belonging to the claimant, marked "W.
 W.," and all of the said cotton being in good
 order and condition.

The seizure, as aforesaid, was made on or about the 13th March, 1865, and the appropriation of his cotton was not on account of the army and navy, as he believes, but for the Treasury Department, (*vide* Albert G. Browne's statement, page —; also, Secretary Fessenden's letter of the 7th January, 1865, addressed to Albert G. Browne.)

Your petitioner declares that the said cotton was purchased by him, not for the purpose of selling on foreign account, nor for running the blockade, nor for sale to the so-called Confederate authorities, but as investment to await the downfall of the rebellion and the restoration of the lawful authority of the United States.

Your petitioner respectfully calls the attention of the honorable, the legislative power of the Government to the fact that he never abandoned his said cotton: that never having violated any of the laws of Congress he is entitled to the full protection of law in respect of his rights of person and of property; that under the act of Congress, dated

March 12, 1863, he is entitled to receive the net proceeds of the sale of his cotton.

The total net proceeds of which sale paid into the United States Treasury are, according to his knowledge and belief, \$48,294 30, forty-eight thousand two hundred and ninety-four 30-100 dollars.—*Vide* statement herewith submitted.

The Honorable Secretary of the Treasury declines to settle the claim of your petitioner, on the ground of want of jurisdiction under the above cited act of Congress, as construed by the Attorney General in his opinion of July 5th, 1865.—*Vide* papers herewith, and letter of the Secretary of the Treasury, dated April 30, 1867, to the President; also same to W. Woodbridge, dated March 2, 1866.

In conclusion, your petitioner respectfully asks that, in consideration of the premises, your honorable body will, according to the facts in the case, and upon principles of justice and equity, grant him relief, and he will ever pray.

WYLLY WOODBRIDGE.

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